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Therefore, Yokota is not valid prior art against claim 1 and the rejection based on Yokota must be withdrawn.

Since Yokota is not valid prior art against the application, the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on the combination of Yokota and Krupicka must be withdrawn. The fact that the Examiner must rely on Yokota means that Krupicka alone cannot support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Therefore, the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) must be based on Krupicka alone, and this reference, by the Examiner's own admission does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against the claims.

Turning now to the restriction requirement, since the prior art rejection has been overcome by the arguments above, generic claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Since Applicants are entitled to a reasonable number of species upon the finding that the generic claim is allowable, the restriction requirement as it pertains to the non-elected species embodied in claims 4, 6-8, and 10 must be withdrawn and claims 1-10 must be allowed.

To summarize, the Examiner should allow the application since the prior art rejection is overcome by showing that Yokota is not valid prior art against the application. Also, since the generic claim is allowable, the election of species requirement must be withdrawn so that all claims are allowed.

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Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine this application in light of the remarks made above, and pass all pending claims onto issuance.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful in expediting the allowance of this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 202-835-1753.

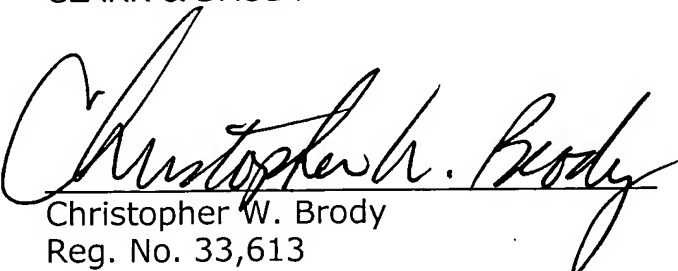
The above constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Office Action dated February 14, 2007.

Again, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fee deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-1088 and credit any excess fees to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: 12010-0056  
Date: March 30, 2007